

CLAIMS

1. Use of inhibitors or antagonists of long pentraxin PTX3 for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention and treatment of degenerative diseases of bone and cartilage.
2. Use according to claim 1, in which what is meant by inhibitor of long pentraxin PTX3 is any monoclonal or polyclonal antibody capable of binding PTX3.
3. Use according to claim 2, in which the antibody is of natural (human or animal), recombinant or synthetic origin.
4. Use according to claim 1, in which the antagonist is monomeric PTX3, or one of its peptide or peptidomimetic derivatives that conserves the functional capability of selectively inhibiting PTX3 activity.
5. Use according to claim 4, in which the antagonist is of natural (human or animal), recombinant or synthetic origin.
6. Use according to claim 4, in which the monomeric pentraxin is of human origin.
7. Use according to claim 1, in which the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), multiple sclerosis (MS), arthritis, diabetes, thyroiditis, haemolytic anaemia, atrophic orchitis, Goodpasture's disease, autoimmune retinopathy, autoimmune thrombocytopenia, myasthenia gravis, primary biliary cirrhosis, chronic aggressive hepatitis, ulcerative colitis, dermatitis, chronic glomerulonephritis, Sjögren's syndrome, Reiter's syndrome, myositis, systemic sclerosis and polyarthritis.

8. Use according to claim 1, in which said degenerative bone or cartilage disease is selected from the group consisting of: osteoarthritis; osteoarthrosis; degenerative diseases of the joints; collagen deficiencies; cartilage or bone diseases characterised by endochondrial ossifications: primary arthritis, including, for example, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, undifferentiated chronic arthritis, and polyarthritis; secondary arthritis of autoimmune origin, including, for example, systemic lupus erythematosus arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease arthritis; arthritis of dysmetabolic origin, including, for example, monosodium urate arthropathy, pyrophosphate arthropathy, calcium oxalate arthropathy; infectious arthritis, arthritis due to osteoporosis, aseptic osteonecrosis, benign and malignant bone tumours.